

Appl. No.  
Amdt. dated September 29, 2003  
Preliminary Amendment

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

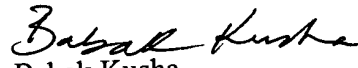
With entry of this Preliminary Amendment, claim 1 is pending in the above-referenced patent application.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 925-472-5000.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Babak Kusha  
Reg. No. 51,095

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP  
Two Embarcadero Center, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Francisco, California 94111-3834  
Tel: 925-472-5000  
Fax: 415-576-0300  
Attachments  
BK:lls  
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